

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789

November 2006

State Fair Advisory Committee

Membership Roster

Senators

**James Merritt, Chair
Indianapolis**

**Allie Craycraft
Selma**

**David Ford
Hartford City**

**James Lewis
Charlestown**

Representatives

**Robert Bischoff
Greendale**

**Phillip Pflum
Milton**

**Phyllis Pond
New Haven**

**William Ruppel
North Manchester**

Legislative Services Agency Staff

**Bernadette Bartlett, Fiscal Analyst
Susan Montgomery, Attorney**

November 1, 2006

A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>.

2006 Report of the State Fair Advisory Committee

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

IC 15-1-1.5-8 directs the Committee to

- (1) Serve as liaison between the State Fair Commission, the board of trustees of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (CASH), the State Fair Board, and the General Assembly.
- (2) Review policies affecting the activities of the commission, CASH, the State Fair, the facilities at the fairgrounds, and the property owned by the commission.
- (3) Provide long-range guidance for the commission, the CASH board of trustees, and the board.
- (4) Review annually the commission's, the CASH board of trustees', and the Board's budgets and other accounts.
- (5) Further advise the Budget Committee regarding appropriations and other financial matters concerning the commission, the CASH board of trustees, and the board.
- (6) Propose, review, and make recommendations concerning legislation affecting the commission, CASH, and the board.

The Legislative Council did not assign topics of study to the committee.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Committee met two times during the 2006 interim. Meetings were held as follows:

1. July 27, 2006, at the CASH, 1201 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.
2. October 11, 2006, at the Board Room of the Administration Building of the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana.

III. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Activities at the State Fairgrounds. *Cynthia Hoyer, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair*, provided an overview of recent activities at the State Fairgrounds. Director Hoyer also discussed activities of the 2006 Indiana State Fair. The 2006 attendance of 870,052 exceeded the 2005 attendance of 820,248. In 2004, the Fair recorded the highest attendance ever of 900,365. Highlights of the Fair included an interactive fishing pond and a butterfly corner, which has been funded through an Indiana Department of Transportation Enhancement grant. Sponsorship was up by 7%. Daylight Savings Time probably helped Fair attendance. Weather was the remaining determining factor in the success of the Fair.

Repair of Facilities. Director Hoyer described recent renovations and remodeling of Fairground facilities and plans for upcoming renovations and maintenance.

CASH Report. Justin Armstrong, CASH Director, provided an overview of the work of CASH. CASH is developing an implementation plan to bring students on site for educational purposes and to provide outreach to all 92 counties with the use of a van. CASH plans to incorporate programs into distance learning that will be broadcast over the world.

The new logo will be "The Barn at the Indiana State Fair Grounds." Director Armstrong described development of the north side of the Fairgrounds. He has met with interested stakeholders about plans for "Hoosier Heritage Days" in the fall and "Celebration of Our Land" in the spring. The programs will focus on environmental as well as agricultural education. CASH has hired a new staff person to use resources from stakeholders in the programs and to incorporate state educational objectives. CASH is working with the IUPUI School of Education to work on evaluations of the programming.

Farmers Market. The Farmers Market was moved to the Monon Trail. Some vendors saw a substantial increase in sales. The new location allowed access during the Fair. However, the future of the market will be reassessed.

Budgets of the State Fair Commission and CASH. Mark Hindsley, Controller, State Fair Commission, provided an overview of the budgets for the State Fair Commission and CASH.

Strategic Plan for the Indiana State Fair: Director Hoyer reviewed a working draft of initiatives for a strategic plan for the Fairgrounds.

The Committee is not required to file a final report. For further details of the Committee's proceedings, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee can be accessed at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/sfac.html>.